HAA 228v Graduate Seminar:  *Syllabus and readings*
Friday, 1:00–3:00pm, Sackler 406
Professors Thomas Leisten and David J. Roxburgh
Office (Sackler Museum):  Leisten, 411; Roxburgh, 413
Telephone:  Leisten 617–495–2355; Roxburgh 617–496–1056
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Fall 2004

**EARLY ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE AND ARCHAEOLOGY**

Focuses on the architectural monuments and sites of early Islam through to ca. 1000—including the regions of Syria, Iraq, Egypt, and Iran—with an emphasis on the history, techniques, and methods of archaeology.

**READINGS**

All readings are required and should be read before each weekly meeting of the seminar. All books and articles are on open or closed reserve at the Fine Arts library. Articles and some book sections (marked with an asterisk *) are arranged as xeroxes in a binder. Some of the books used in the seminar may be available for purchase at booksellers in Harvard Square (e.g., the Harvard Bookstore, Wordsworth) or can be ordered through internet booksellers.

**REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to weekly attendance and participation in classroom discussions, each student is responsible for making a 30-minute presentation to the seminar on a research topic chosen by him or her and discussed with the professors. Students should provide each member of the seminar with a one-page bibliography, sketching out the most important sources for their project, on November 12. The final paper is due on January 15. It should be accompanied by a scholarly apparatus comprising footnotes, bibliography, and illustrations.

Breakdown of grade:  classroom 30%; presentation 20%; paper 50%.
READINGS AND SEMINAR TOPICS BY WEEK

Sept. 24  RELEVANCE OF THE PAST: THE PRE-ISLAMIC PERIOD IN ARABIA, MESOPOTAMIA, AND SYRIA

Readings:


Al-Ansary, A. R. *Qaryat al-Fau: A Portrait of Pre-Islamic Civilization in Saudi Arabia* (Riyadh, 1982).


Oct. 1  HOUSE OR ŌIMÅ: HISTORIOGRAPHY ON THE PROPHET’S MOSQUE IN MADINA

Readings:


Oct. 8  ANACHRONISTIC ARCHITECTURE: ANJAR, KUFA, AYLA

Readings:


Kubiak, W.  *Al-Fustat* (Cairo, 1987), pp. 58-75. *


Oct. 15  THE AMBIGUITY OF KEY MONUMENTS I: THE DOME OF THE ROCK

Readings:


Oct. 22  THE AMBIGUITY OF KEY MONUMENTS II: THE UMAYYAD MOSQUE OF DAMASCUS

Readings:


Oct. 29 REVISITING UMAYYAD PALACES I: NEW EVIDENCE AND LITERATURE

Readings:


Nov. 5 REVISITING UMAYYAD PALACES II: MSHATTÅ—STILL A PROBLEM

Readings:


**Nov. 12**

**EARLY ABBASIDS IN SYRIA AND IRAQ**

Readings:


**Nov. 19**

**PROBLEMS IN THE STUDY OF SAMARRA**

Readings:


*Excavations at Samarra, 1936-1939* (Baghdad, 1940).


[Nov. 26: Thanksgiving recess]

**Dec. 3**

**A NEW CLASS OF ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE: THE MAUSOLEUM IN IRAN AND CENTRAL ASIA**

Readings:

Blair, Sheila S. The Monumental Inscriptions from Early Islamic Iran and Transoxania (Leiden, 1992).

Bulatov, M. S. Mavzolei Samanidov-zhemchuzhina arkhitektury Srednei Azli (Tashkent, 1976).


Dec. 10  STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Dec. 17  STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Jan. 4–14  READING PERIOD. Research papers due on January 15
ADDITIONAL BOOKS ON RESERVE


______. *Early Muslim Architecture* (New York, 1979).


